

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of incentivising members of a disease management programme to comply with the programme, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of general programme areas and a plurality of specific programme areas, wherein the plurality of general programme areas are programme areas that if complied with will be of benefit to a member stricken with any disease managed by the disease management programme and wherein the plurality of specific programme areas are programme areas that are determined to be of particular benefit to a member afflicted with some but not all of the diseases managed by the disease management programme;

awarding points to a member for each of the general programme areas in which the member participates;

~~associating each of the plurality of general programme areas with each of the diseases managed by the programme;~~

~~associating each of the plurality of specific programme areas only with those diseases managed by the programme to which the specific programme area is determined to be of particular benefit to a member afflicted with the disease;~~

awarding points to a member for each of the specific programme areas in which the member participates, only if the member is afflicted with a disease which is

~~associated with that particular programme area~~ to which the specific programme area in which the member participates has been determined to be of particular benefit; and  
calculating the total number of points awarded to the member; and  
allocating a reward to the member if the total number of points awarded to the member accumulate to a predetermined amount.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein points are only awarded to the member if the member participates in all of the programme areas which are associated with the disease or diseases with which the member is afflicted.

3. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein additional points are awarded to the member if the member participates in all of the programme areas which are associated with the disease or diseases with which the member is afflicted.

4. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the general programme areas are some of diet, exercise, smoking and education.

5. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the specific programme areas are one or more of blood pressure, flow volume loop measurement, influenza vaccine, pneumococcal vaccine, cholesterol and long term glucose control.

6. (original) A method according claim 1 further including the steps of:  
defining a measurable within at least one of the general or specific programme areas so that a members performance within said programme area can be ascertained;  
defining a minimum level of the measurable, which minimum level indicates a minimum required level of member performance within the at least one programme area; and  
awarding points to a member if the member obtains the defined minimum level of a measurable for the at least one programme area only if the member is afflicted with a disease which is associated with that particular programme area.

7. (original) A method according to claim 6 further comprising the step of awarding additional points to the member if the member obtains the minimum level of a measurable for all of the programme areas which are associated with the disease with which the member is afflicted.

8. (currently amended) A method of incentivising members of a disease management programme to comply with the programme, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of general programme areas and a plurality of specific programme areas, wherein the plurality of general programme areas are programme areas that if complied with will be of benefit to a member stricken with any disease

managed by the disease management programme and wherein the plurality of specific programme areas are programme areas that are determined to be of particular benefit to a member afflicted with some but not all of the diseases managed by the disease management programme;

~~associating each of the plurality of general programme areas with each of the diseases managed by the programme;~~

~~—— associating each of the plurality of specific programme areas only with those diseases managed by the programme to which the specific programme area is determined to be of particular benefit to a member afflicted with the disease;~~

defining a measurable within each of the general and specific programme areas so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained;

defining a minimum level for each measurable, which minimum level indicates a minimum required level of member performance within each of the programme areas;

awarding points to a member if the member obtains the minimum level of a measurable for a particular programme area only if the member is afflicted with a disease which is associated with that particular programme area; and

allocating a reward to the member if the points awarded to the member accumulate to a predetermined amount.

9. (original) A method according to claim 8 wherein, additional points are awarded to the member if they obtain the minimum level of a measurable for all of the programme areas which are associated with the disease with which the member is afflicted.

10. (previously presented) A method according to claim 8 wherein the general programme areas are some of diet, exercise, smoking and education.

11. (original) A method according to claim 8 wherein the specific programme areas are one or more of blood pressure, flow volume, loop measurement, influenza vaccine, pneumococcal vaccine, cholesterol and long term glucose control.

12. (currently amended) A method of incentivising members of a disease management programme to comply with the programme, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of general programme areas and a plurality of specific programme areas, wherein the plurality of general programme areas are programme areas that if complied with will be of benefit to a member stricken with any disease managed by the disease management programme and wherein the plurality of specific programme areas are programme areas that are determined to be of particular benefit

to a member afflicted with some but not all of the diseases managed by the disease management programme;

~~associating each of the plurality of general programme areas with each of the diseases managed by the programme;~~

~~—— associating each of the plurality of specific programme areas only with those diseases managed by the programme to which the specific programme area is determined to be of particular benefit to a member who is predisposed to being afflicted with the disease;~~

awarding points to a member for each of the programme areas in which the member participates, only if the member is predisposed to being afflicted with a disease which is associated with that particular programme area; and

allocating a reward to the member if the points awarded to the member accumulate to a predetermined amount.

13. (currently amended) A method of incentivising members of a disease management programme to comply with the programme, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of general programme areas and a plurality of specific programme areas, wherein the plurality of general programme areas are programme areas that if complied with will be of benefit to a member stricken with any disease managed by the disease management programme and wherein the plurality of specific

programme areas are programme areas that are determined to be of particular benefit to a member afflicted with some but not all of the diseases managed by the disease management programme;

~~associating each of the plurality of general programme areas with each of the diseases managed by the programme;~~

~~— associating each of the plurality of specific programme areas only with those diseases managed by the programme to which the specific programme area is determined to be of particular benefit to a member who is predisposed to being afflicted with the disease;~~

defining a measurable within each of the general and specific programme areas so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained;

defining a minimum level for each measurable, which minimum level indicates a minimum required level of member performance within each of the programme areas;

awarding points to a member if the member obtains the minimum level of a measurable for a particular programme area only if the member is predisposed to being afflicted with a disease which is associated with that particular programme area; and

allocating a reward to the member if the points awarded to the member accumulate to a predetermined amount.

14. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the amount of the reward is related to the amount of points accumulated by the member.

15. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the reward is a cash payout or special options on services.
16. (previously presented) A method according to claim 15 wherein the services are one or more of airplane tickets, hotel accommodation and car rentals.
17. (previously presented) A method according to claim 8 wherein the amount of the reward is related to the amount of points accumulated by the member.
18. (previously presented) A method according to claim 8 wherein the reward is a cash payout or special options on services.
19. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~[[16]]~~ 18 wherein the services are one or more of airplane tickets, hotel accommodation and car rentals